

**Minutes of the Carlisle Board of Health
March 24, 2015**

AGENDA

Minutes – 2/24/15, 3/10/15
Bills
Administrative Reports
570 West Street – Preliminary Subdivision Plan
(Michel Kenny)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Swine Permit Regulations – proposed revisions
Farmer's Market Forms – final draft
2015 Rabies Clinic – report
Septic System Installation Schedule
Year End FY 14Memo

NEW BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 pm at town hall. Present: Board members Bill Risso (Chairman), Lee Storrs, Donna Margolies, Catherine Galligan, and Todd Thorsen. Also present Linda Fantasia, Health Agent; Ed Rolfe (Planning Board); Alex Brewster (Carlisle Mosquito) and representatives of the Agricultural Committee.

MINUTES – It was moved (Storrs) and seconded (Thorsen) to approve the minutes of 2/24/15 as amended. Motion passed 5-0-0. It was moved (Galligan) and seconded (Margolies) to approve the minutes of 3/10/15 as amended. Motion passed 5-0-0.

BILLS – Engineering invoice for February. It was moved (Galligan) and seconded (Storrs) to approve the invoice for Technical Consulting Group as presented. Motion passed 5-0-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS –

Hazardous Waste Collection - April 25, 9-12 at DPW facility. Clean Harbors will conduct the collection. Fantasia contacted New England Disposal Technologies but they are not on the state contract for holding One Day events (Category 2) – only ongoing disposal (Category 1). The third company, Clean Ventures Inc., is not on the state contract list. Clean Harbors is on the list as Category 2 (One Day Event)

53G Revolving Account – This account would be used to hold funds for hiring outside consultants. It requires town meeting approval. Currently the Board has a 53E ½ account to hold fees until expenses are incurred. The Board will check with the Finance Director on the process.

100 Long Ridge Road “The Birches” – Copies of the latest correspondence were provided; the next ZBA meeting is 3/26/15; the next TAG meeting is 4/2/15.

CASPER (Comprehensive Assessment of Public Health Emergency Response) Region 4A Training – Risso, Fantasia and Alan Lewis will attend. This is a workshop on how to organize an Epi-Strike team of volunteers for a medical or natural disaster. The TEAM will coordinate with Carlisle MRC and future shelter committee.

2015 Population Health Clerkship – UMass. Medical School would like to know if Carlisle wants to host again this year. The Board has hosted three clerkships. Fantasia suggested hoarding as a possible topic. There have been a number of cases in Carlisle over the last five years. Hoarding now qualifies as a medical diagnosis but can be very difficult to treat. Thorsen said he might be interested in helping as the community facilitator. Fantasia will forward the program details to him.

Review of Ongoing Projects: The Board agreed to put the Mosquito History on the town's website since spring is approaching and residents will have questions about mosquito control in the town. The Board noted that there is no

data on how many residents have their properties sprayed. The Board would also like to know how many marijuana dispensaries have been issued permits by DPH. There were no applications in Carlisle. The Board may consider regulations on a local dispensary at a future date.

570 WEST STREET – Preliminary Subdivision Plan Discussion. Present for the discussion was developer Michael Kenny.

Kenny referred the Board to the four lot preliminary subdivision plan. He has had pre-submission conferences with Conservation, Board of Health and Planning Board staff. There is an existing house on the property that will be torn down. Each of the lots will be a minimum two acres. He is in the process of purchasing a small piece of land from an adjacent property owner. This will provide adequate frontage and eliminate a wetland crossing. He does not expect to need any local or state waivers for the septic systems. There is a landscaping business that operates from the site. There is a paved area for parking equipment that will be removed. The preliminary soil testing has been done and the soil logs submitted. It is expected that the Definitive Subdivision Plan will not change from the Preliminary Plan. Kenny has not decided whether to use alternative technology septic systems. He has done other successful developments in town including Laurel Hollow and the Wheat Tavern Trust Condominiums.

The Board agreed it did not have any concerns at this time. The Definitive Plan will be reviewed by the Board's engineering consultant.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2015 Rabies Clinic – the Board reviewed the report prepared by Fantasia. The Clinic was held on 3/14/15 from 2-4 at town hall. Countryside Veterinary Hospital (CVH) provided staff including Tiffany Rule, DVM. 18 dogs and 14 cats were vaccinated. Due to the cold rainy weather, animals and owners were allowed to wait in the lobby. Four high school students helped: Johanna Murphy, Gabrielle Wilson, Cindy Fontaine and Claire Brandhorst. They are interested in helping again next year. Charlene Hinton was available for Dog Licenses. Galligan, Risso, Fantasia, Lyman and Judy Hodges also helped out. Registration took the most amount of time resulting in a backlog of forms being filled out. This is also true at flu clinics. The Board agreed that (1) a second laptop would be very helpful and (2) using the town clerk's licensing database to complete the rabies certificate. Merging the forms and data base would be a good project for a student.

The clinic was open to other towns. Clinics are advertised on cable TV and the state website. CVCH collected \$320 (32 shots @ \$10 ea.). This covered the cost of vaccine and syringes (\$96.00) and supplies (\$70.03). The balance of \$153.97 was donated by CVH to the town for animal management. Starting next year the Board will have a \$200 line item to cover the cost of supplies and wages for the Administrative Assistant. Next year's clinic is scheduled for 4/9/16 which is past the dog licensing deadline. It may be possible to offer a grace period for people who come to the clinic for a vaccination. Fantasia will check with the town clerk.

Farmer's Market Forms - The project was begun last fall by David Estabrook under a DPH mini-grant. Galligan finalized the latest drafts for the Board's review. The two forms include a Self-Certification for vendors and Market Manager Checklist. The purpose is to educate vendors about safe food handling practices and help the managers maintain an accurate record of vendors and licenses. Once completed the forms would be retained by the market manager onsite and available for Board of Health Inspection. Since the Board only charges \$10/yr. for the market, there is no additional funding to pay for a consultant so the Board will monitor the market. The Board noted that the fee was set low in order to encourage fresh food products. The Board agreed that the forms were clear and easy to fill out, and agreed that an issue date should be added to the form. The forms can also be adapted for One Day Community Events.

TOWN OF CARLISLE SWINE REGULATIONS – proposed revisions.

Present for the discussion: Agricultural Committee members Judy Asarkoff, Leslie Thomas, Kay Fairweather, Andrew Rogers and Zachary Thatcher (Clark Farm).

Galligan had prepared a table summary of other town regulations as a reference for the Board to consider when revising the current regulation that was adopted in 1947. This review was prompted by a recent application for a swine permit and a second application still under consideration by the farmer.

The Board reviewed Galligan's summary section by section allowing for comments from the audience. Members of the Agricultural Commission, some of whom have raised pigs, were concerned about over regulating the practice. The Board agreed that the 1947 regulation was intended to monitor larger commercial operations such as the O'Rourke Farm which had 1000 pigs. This regulation requires all swine to be permitted, regardless of number. Today's farmer may only have one or two pigs. Thomas, who has raised pigs in town, said raising pigs today is probably much different from 1947, especially on a small scale. Storrs said that one of the problems with the existing regulation is enforcing it for everyone. Fairweather asked what the Board was trying to protect. Galligan said environmental and health risks are a concern, including management of manure, runoff from a pen, odors, flies, and other nuisances. This is all under the Board's responsibility. Risso added that the keeping of pigs should not interfere with an abutter's enjoyment of his property. Thorsen said that excessive nitrogen in runoff can pollute the ecosystem of a wetland reducing its treatment capabilities. Rolfe asked how these issues are handled for other animals. Galligan explained that the state treats piggeries differently and sees them as potential nuisances.

Audience members questioned how the Board would determine the land area necessary for raising pigs. The audience commented that it is the management of the pigs that is more important. Asarkoff said piglets arrive in the spring, are pasture-raised and sent to market¹ in the fall. They are not being bred and raised in Carlisle year round. Rogers suggested eliminating the land area requirement entirely. Risso asked whether garbage is fed to pigs today. This can be very odorous since the garbage should be heated. Rogers said it depends on what is considered garbage. He will give old farm produce to his pigs and sometimes the school's composting material. Thorsen said the intent is most likely restaurant waste not farm produce. Rogers noted that Hamilton allows industrial byproducts but not sewage. Most pigs today are grain fed.

Thomas was concerned that the additional fee would hurt the farmer. There is not much profit in farming today. Rolfe suggested that the Board decide on the carrying capacity of the land site by site. It was also pointed out that the barn license period of Sept 1st through Aug 31st does not fit the typical swine operation. Farmers need to know in December when they order piglets if they will be licensed and the pigs may not be onsite when the inspectors visit in October. Fairweather questioned how the Board would define a piggery. Risso said that town counsel suggested 3 or more fits the commonly accepted definition of a piggery. Thomas said most local farmers have only 2-3 pigs. Rogers said he had 10 last year but they were sold before the fall inspection. He raises the pigs on 2-3 acres of his 32 acre farm. Pigs do not need a lot of land. Asarkoff said the practice of pasture-raising pigs over the summer is very different from year round breeding. She would define a piggery as a year round operation. Thatcher agreed that 50+ pigs over a winter should be considered a piggery. Rolfe suggested excluding from the regulation an owner who is raising a single pig for slaughter as long as it is not a commercial operation. (Margolies left the meeting).

Galligan said the Board is trying to be sensitive to the local farmers. Storrs agreed that the Board would prefer to be pro-active in its guidance before problems arise. The Board is authorized under MGL 111 Section 143 to deal with piggeries as a nuisance or noisome trade. Thomas was concerned about any requirement that the pen not be visible from the road. Fairweather agreed that as long as the operation met the other requirements, visibility from the street should not be a problem. Risso said it is important to have specific conditions. The Board cannot be subjective. Galligan said she would be interested in hearing comments from residents who do not want pigs in town. Fantasia said the Board needs to be careful about permitting a piggery, which is prohibited by the Zoning Bylaw. The Board could be placing the permit holder in conflict with a town bylaw.

Rogers explained the cost involved in raising pigs: \$200 per piglet plus food, transportation and slaughter. Market price is only approximately \$1200 leaving very little profit. Pigs also need a shelter or woods and shade. They can get sunburnt. The Committee asked how they could help. The Board suggested describing what would be good management practices to guide the Board in deciding what it might allow and what it should prohibit. The Board

¹ To market to market to buy a big pig, home again, home again, jiggety, jig. First published in 1598 in John Florio's "A Worlde of Wordes, or Most copius, and exact Dictionarie in Italian and English"

asked about health certificates. Pigs are required to have a valid health certificate from their state of origin. The Committee was unaware of this requirement.

Rather than creating a new set of permitting regulations the Board decided that pigs could be included under the current barn licensing and manure management regulations. Barn licensing tracks livestock in town and includes an annual inspection by the Animal Inspectors, Larry Sorli and Deb Toher. The current form may need to be revised to specifically address the number of pigs. By using the barn license procedure, there would be no additional expense to the farmer. The Board would require a manure management plan at the time of licensing which would be checked by the Animal Inspectors during the annual inspection. Thomas said the Agricultural Committee would be happy to provide comments.

Risso said the Board is also revising the Manure Regulations to regulate the transportation of manure in tightly enclosed containers in order to prevent leakage onto public roads. This has been a problem in the past. The Board hopes to have drafts of the above for the next meeting. The Board thanked the audience for their comments in helping the Board to understand current small scale pig raising practices in town.

Septic System Installation Memo – the Board reviewed a memo that will be distributed to all engineers and installers. The memo is in response to concerns from installers about the length of time it takes to complete a job in Carlisle. Galligan, Risso and Fantasia had met with Rob Frado to work out a schedule. It should only take three inspections and eleven business days to complete an installation if the installer is prepared and does not fail an inspection. The Board had considered two mornings instead of a single day but agreed it was not useful after hearing from Frado. The Board is interested in providing a seven-day turn around on plan reviews. This is still under discussion. The Board will arrange a meeting with installers to hear their comments.

Fiscal Year 15 year End Memo – the Board reviewed and accepted (with one small edit) the final report which will be sent to the Finance Committee and Finance Director.

NEW BUSINESS

Safe Home Care Project – Galligan informed the Board that her paper *“A growing Fire Hazard Concern in Communities: Home Oxygen Therapy and Continued Smoking Habits”* on occupational safety for home care aides was being published in journal New Solutions. The Board of Health collaborated on the study by developing local resources and interventions for dealing with medical oxygen.

Cancer Incidence Report – Galligan provided an updated report based on 2006—2010 cancer rates that indicates a higher than expected incidence of cancer among Carlisle females for breast cancer, thyroid cancer and melanoma. There was also a higher than expected incidence of prostate cancer among men. This is a follow up to the earlier report prepared by David Estabrook.

Glyphosate Health Risks – Galligan distributed a report from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifying Glyphosate as probably carcinogenic to humans. Glyphosate is a widely used herbicide which includes Round Up. The Board took the information under advisement.

There was no further business. Meeting voted to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Fantasia
Recorder